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www.JenniferFindley.com

GETTING STARTED WITH INDEPENDENT READING CONFERENCES



FREE QUESTIONING GUIDE

Getting Started Dialogue and Questions

- Ask the student if you may see the book they are reading. Glance over the front cover and maybe even skim the back of the book. This will quickly give you the gist of the book.
- Based on your initial first glance at the book, make a comment about the book followed by a prompting question to start the conversation. Examples:
 - “Oh, I have heard of this book. I have always wanted to read it. People say _____. What do you think about it?”
 - I read this book last year. What part are you at?
 - Some of my students really enjoyed this book last year. What do you think so far?
 - This (mention something on the cover) looks interesting. What is happening here?
 - I think (topic of the book) is fascinating/intriguing/interesting. What are you thinking so far?
- Once you open the conference like this and the students get used to this type of dialogue about books, the conversations will start flowing naturally. However if you still have some reluctant students, I have a list of guiding questions that you can use for fiction and nonfiction on the next two pages.

Fiction Questions

- »»» What made you choose this book?

- »»» What is happening so far in your book?

- »»» What do you predict will happen next? Why?

- »»» Tell me more about the characters. Do you have a favorite?

- »»» Is there a problem in the book? How has the character tried to solve the problem?

- »»» Could this book really happen? How do you know?

- »»» Does this book remind you of a television show or movie?

- »»» Have you read a similar book? How was it similar?

Nonfiction Questions

- »»» What made you choose this particular book?

- »»» What did you already know about this topic before you started reading?

- »»» What have you learned so far?

- »»» What was the most interesting fact you read?

- »»» What shocked you in the book?

- »»» Has the book changed your thinking of the topic? How or why?

- »»» What confused you from your reading?

- »»» What do you still want to learn?

Independent Reading Conference Form

Name: Example

9/28/15

Sadako and the
Thousand Paper Cranes

- On page 14.
- Thinks something bad will happen because the book keeps mentioning good luck
- Plans to finish book in a week

10/5/2015

Sadako and the
Thousand Paper Cranes

- Finished the book and provided an in-depth summary and review.
- Just started reading Number the Stars (touch base with on this book next week).

Independent Reading Conference Form

Name: _____

Independent Reading Conference Form

Name: _____

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